

Ugandans to the Rescue



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Illegal killings in Uganda worry US government

Posted by Musa

A new US report on Human Rights violations has indicted Ugandan **POLICE** and **ARMY** for indiscriminately killing civilians, including inmates, and highlighted failure to punish perpetrators.

Released on Friday by U.S Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the 2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices chapter on Uganda says “security **forces killed suspects while in custody or during questioning**”.

“Serious human rights problems in the country included arbitrary killings; vigilante killings; mob and ethnic violence; torture and abuse of detainees; **official impunity; politically-motivated arrest and detention...**” *it notes.*

Washington has previously faulted Uganda government’s human rights record, and this present report, while chronicling findings of local human rights organizations, speaks of victims’ being stabbed, caned, raped or their genitals being squeezed. It reads: “There were no reports that the government or its agents committed politically-motivated killings; however, security forces killed demonstrators, suspects, detainees and other citizens. Some **deaths occurred as a result of torture.**”

Like Always, Information Minister Kabakumba Masiko was unavailable for comment. However, Ms Judith Nabakooba, the spokesperson for police, the institution accused of orchestrating many of the alleged extra-judicial killings, said the report is biased. What else could this idiot have said? Excuse my language

In the 35th annual report to Congress on the state of human rights in 183 countries, the Department of State says Uganda security personnel use “excessive force, including use of live ammunition, to carry out law enforcement”.

The Kireka-headquartered Rapid Response Unit operatives, for instance, allegedly killed Henry Bakasamba during questioning. The report author’s question why none of President Museveni’s guards accused of killing people at Kasubi in March, 2010, has been prosecuted. **This is what we have been saying all the time, none of these tyrants is ever prosecuted, WHY**

Ms Nabakooba said police conduct and training has improved over the past year and cases captured in the latest report prepared by Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor are “isolated incidents and mistakes of individuals”. “Where our officers acted with impunity, they have faced the law. Their cases should not be generalized to reflect institutional conduct,” she said. “We cannot, however, say that we are angels; mistakes are bound to happen.” *Yes but these mistakes on human life have to be punished*

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Critics have said police under Maj. Gen. Kale Kayihura stewardship have become more militant and trigger-happy, especially in tackling peaceful demonstrations by opposition politicians.

Army not spared

The report does not spare the UPDF either. In Karamoja, the US government 90 civilians, many victims of indiscriminate bombing, and 32 soldiers died during the disarmament exercise last year alone. ***And this is where Ugandans to the rescue comes in, to rescue Ugandans***

It accused the army of torturing civilian there. Spokesman Lt. Col. Felix Kulayigye said he would respond today. Ms Clinton, while releasing the report on Friday, described it as an “honest compendium of global human rights issues” and said they will continue to work with civil society organizations around the world because those are vehicles that enable governments understand citizens’ real problems.

“History has shown that governments that respect their people’s rights do tend, over time, to be more stable, more peaceful, and ultimately more prosperous,” she said, echoing a line in President Barak Obama’s July 2009 address in Ghana.

VICTIMS

1. Gilbert Mukonyezi
2. Henry Bakasamba
3. Calvin Ocwe
4. Cornelius Kayanja
5. Haruna Kakumba
6. Dennis Bazara
7. Bernard Byabashaija
8. William Byamugisha
9. Daniel Tumwine
10. Mucunguzi Katongole
11. Taban Ramadan
12. Emmanuel Tindimwebira
13. Joseph Denaya
14. Cosmas Data
15. Ali Katende

Source: US 2010 Country Reports
on Human Rights Practices